

## Trail Segment and Site Certification Requirements

*Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail | January 2015*

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The following information is provided as a general guide to non-federal property owners or managers who are interested in certification of a trail segment or site as a component of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. To begin the certification process, please contact the Anza Trail Administrative Office by clicking “Contact Us” online at [nps.gov/JUBA](http://nps.gov/JUBA).

### **How to Get Your Trail Segment or Site Certified**

Certification is a partnership that helps land owners protect and preserve their historic trail properties, and share them with others. The process of certification is a collaborative effort between the property owner and the National Park Service Trail Administrative Staff to recognize high quality trail segments and sites that contribute resources, potential recreational use, historic quality that can be interpreted, and/or opportunity to vicariously share the experience of the Expedition.

**The owner/manager retains all legal rights to the property, and nothing in the certification agreement is to be construed as granting any legal authority to the National Park Service over the property or any action by the owner/manager.**

- 1. Contact Trail Staff:** After any initial conversations about certification, property owners/managers are required to fill out the Certification Requirements form. This form will be used by trail staff to check eligibility and inform the certification process. The NPS has seven criteria that must be met for recreation trail segment certification, which can be found below. All trail segments and sites being considered for nomination should be associated with the Anza trail historically and/or thematically and be in the vicinity of the historic corridor.
- 2. Evaluate Significance:** After receiving the form, Trail Staff will review the nomination and coordinate with the property owner to conduct a joint site visit to discuss the nominated resource. The visit provides opportunity to identify any remaining barriers to certification, identify any planning, management, and public use objectives for a trail segment or site, and any restrictions the property owner/manager may wish to place on the visitor of the property.
- 3. Certification Agreement:** Once the property is confirmed as eligible for certification, the owner/manager and a designated Federal official will then sign a simple certification agreement, in which they agree to work together for the benefit of the resource, the public, and the property owner/manager. The property owner/manager can establish visiting times, dictate where the visitors may go on the property, and set other reasonable conditions. While agreements are ideally formalized with a simplified, standard agreement form, agreements are flexible and forms can be adapted as necessary to the particular circumstances of a resource.

Terms of the agreement are based on the mutual agreement of both parties to work towards achieving the highest level of resource protection and visitor appreciation of trail resources through the application of National Park Service standards, guidelines, and policies. Certification is nonbinding, and may be canceled by either party at any time by written notice. The National Park Service and the owner/manager agree, whenever possible, to identify issues or concerns to allow for resolution prior to actual decertification.

- 4. Site Protection and Planning:** Post-certification actions may include historical and other technical assistance, site and interpretive planning, design and development, project compliance, and other mutually-agreed upon endeavors.
- 5. Public Notification:** The property owner/manager and designated Federal official may participate, as appropriate, in signing ceremonies, press events, and other notifications.

The amount of time required to certify a property is highly variable, depending on the nature of the property and the concerns of the certifying partner. If trail staff are already familiar with the property and have an established relationship with the partner, certification might consist of an exchange of documents for signing and filing, taking only a few hours of work time. If the property needs to be examined and assessed by trails staff, and/or if the certifying partner has numerous concerns about the process or requires extensive legal review of the written agreement, the certification process can be work-intensive and stretch out over weeks or months. Usually, on-site evaluation of the property and completion of the agreement can be expected to take two or four workdays.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Trail Segments**

1. Nominated trail segment must have direct and significant historical and/or thematic associations with the Anza Trail and be within the vicinity of the historic corridor.
2. Nominated trail segment must be made available to the public for use, interpretation, and appreciation.
3. Nominated trail segment must be part of a larger comprehensive plan to prevent trail segments from being haphazardly aligned along the corridor. This is to facilitate connectivity of segments and creation of a continuous recreation trail corridor.
4. Nominated trail segment must have a surveyed easement that cannot be changed for at least 10 years (preferably into perpetuity) and be non-Federally owned and managed. This prevents subsequent land owners from modifying or removing the trail. The long-term easement must set aside a minimum corridor width of 50-feet. Exceptions are made where the trail is limited in width by existing natural terrain or in pre-existing urban areas on a case-by-case basis.
5. Nominated trail segments must be maintained and in good condition. A maintenance agreement must be established with an organization who can be relied upon to maintain the trail, check and replace signs, and report on trail conditions. This is usually a county or other local government entity, established volunteer group, or a homeowner's association.
6. Nominated trail segment is non-motorized and usable for hiking, biking, and equestrian use.

7. Nominated trail segment and associated information must correctly refer to the "Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail" or the "Anza Trail." Referring to a segment as "de Anza" will delay certification until it is corrected.

## **Sites**

1. Nominated site must have direct and significant historical and/or thematic associations with the Anza Trail and be within the historic corridor.
2. Nominated site must be made available to some degree for public for use, interpretation, and appreciation.
3. Nominated site must be non-Federally owned and managed.
4. Nominated site must meet accessibility requirements mandated by Federal law, where applicable.
5. The person or organization requesting certification must be the legal owner of the property or have the owner's authorization to pursue certification.
6. Nominated site and associated information must correctly refer to the "Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail" or the "Anza Trail." Referring to a site as "de Anza" will delay certification until it is corrected.

## **Benefits of Certification**

Certification brings many benefits to trail partners, such as:

**Technical Assistance:** NPS experts in many fields can help research and share the story of your certified property.

**Protection and Site Development Guidance:** As the nation's leading conservation agency, the NPS can advise property owners on protection their site, preserving its historic qualities, and managing visitor use. The NPS can also help with site planning and design and aid in producing interpretive story panels for certified trail segments and sites.

**Project Funding and Assistance:** The NPS can provide federal funds for eligible projects to match project costs in addition to helping find funding from other sources.

**Recognition:** The NPS can provide official National Historic Trail signs and logos for display at certified sites. Visitors recognize those signs and logos, and through them know right away that a site is historically important.

Ready to start? Click [here](#) for the submission form and requirements in legal language.